

ROGERS



Patricia Beach Stephenson Murchison

Rogers, 81, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, October 8, 2010 surrounded by her beloved children, grandchildren and dogs. Born in Hollywood,

California on June 1, 1929, she and her mother, Louise Beach Murchison,

returned to El Paso when Pat was still a young child. Raised by

her grandparents, Henry and Elise Beach, on Yandell Street, Pat's first language was Spanish, which contributed to her fluency throughout her lifetime. She attended Radford School and enjoyed piano playing, tennis and horseback riding. Known as "Murphy" to her friends, she graduated from Texas School of Mines (UTEP) with a BA in Science with Math. In 1949 she was chosen as Sun Queen, and was also a Maid of Cotton in the San Antonio pageant, Fiesta de las Flores. It was through her Radford yearbook that her future husband, Jonathan Woodruff Rogers, was to first come across her beautiful smile. While stationed at Fort Bliss, he liked to boast that they met on a blind date. "Pat wasn't wearing her glasses," he would joke. He proposed on bended knee, with waves crashing into the windows at The Marine Room at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. The two were married in 1954 in the Church of St. Clement. When Pat's father, Samuel "Daddy Mac" Macintosh Murchison, passed away in 1962, Jon took over the family-owned business, Mortgage Investment Company of El Paso (MICO), and built it into the largest locally-owned mortgage banking firm between Dallas and Los Angeles, while Pat worked just as hard raising their four children. Throughout the years, Pat enjoyed volunteering for community projects, especially The Junior League of El Paso where she loved spending time at the Planetarium, sitting outside at night sharing her knowledge of the stars with visitors. She was a member of Comadres and the Pan American Roundtable and was awarded the Gran Paseña from UTEP. But her time spent together with Jon was always her top priority. She danced in The Junior League Follies with her husband by her side, and she would

drag him away from work at least once a year so that they could enjoy time together travelling throughout the world. But she loved El Paso most, and would quietly share her generous philanthropy with those organizations closest to her heart, including UTEP, St. Clement's, Planned Parenthood, El Paso Community Foundation, YWCA, Hospice El Paso, Sierra Medical Center, El Paso High School, El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Ballet El Paso and El Paso Opera. Pat also had a passion for reading, entertaining and watching old movies. Her classic movie collection was extensive, and she spent her final days watching some of her favorites, including "Camelot" with Robert Goulet. Pat will be remembered for her "wicked" sense of humor. She was elegant, sophisticated and refined, yet spunky, independent and strong willed. The family traditions that Pat and Jon began over 50 years ago continue to this day. All of their children and grandchildren attended - and still attend - the St. Clement's Parish School, and July in La Jolla continues to be the annual family summer retreat. Pat's spirit lives on in her children and grandchildren. She is survived by her children Jonathan Rogers, Jr., Dede Rogers and Patricia (Isha) Rogers Babel. Her adoring grandchildren include Jonathan Woodruff, III (J.W.) and Garland Rogers; and Jacques, Antoine and Anne Elise Babel. She was preceded in death by her son Mac and husband Jonathan. Her family would like to thank all of Pat's nurses and caregivers who helped her enjoy her final years and remain at home, though she lived with Alzheimer's. They include: Dusty, Claudia, Norma, Maria Elena, the two Sylvias, Elia, Yolanda, Kathy, Trey, Megan, Daniela, Jacqui, Sergio, Luisa, Chelo, Maribel and Juana, with a very special thanks to Kim. A memorial service for Pat will be held Friday, October 15th at 11am at Church of St. Clement, 810 N. Campbell. Very Reverend Bill Cobb and Ron Thompson officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the UTEP School of Engineering and St. Clement's Parish School. Services entrusted to Hillcrest Funeral Home and Cemetery.

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